

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-3 and 5-12 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Applicants to discuss the Fleming reference in light of the claimed invention. Although no agreement was reached, it provided an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the Examiner's rejections with respect to the Fleming reference.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered item 3, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,873,080 to Coden, et al. in view of U.S. Patent no. 6,230,204 to Fleming, III. Claims 1-3 and 6-12 are independent claims. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Amended independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "a control unit which calculates search parameters based on the stored personal information" and "a searching unit which searches, when a user specifies a search condition, for a piece of search target information satisfying the search condition and the calculated search parameters from the pieces of search target information in the information storage unit, and stores information indicating that the pieces of search target information are searched by the user into the information storage unit." Further, amended independent claim 1 recites "a result-of-search presenting unit which presents, to the user, at least a part of information that forms each piece of search target information searched by said searching unit together with the fitting value calculated by said calculating unit with respect to that piece of search target information and the search parameters calculated by the control unit." Independent claims 2, 3, and 6-12 have been amended to recite similar features. Support for these amendments can be found in the originally filed Specification at least at page 28, line 13 to page 29, line 20.

Applicants respectfully submit that Coden does not teach or suggest "a control unit which calculates search parameters based on the stored personal information," as recited in the independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Fleming also fails to teach or suggest a control unit, as recited in the independent claims. As the deficiencies of Fleming fail to cure the deficiencies of Coden, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1-3 and 6-12, and those claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, patentably distinguish over the prior art and are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, at page 7, numbered item 4, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Coden, et al. in view of Fleming, III, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,678 to Aalbersberg. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 12 has also been amended to recite "a control unit which calculates search parameters based on the stored personal information," in a manner similar to amended independent claim 1. As discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Coden and Fleming, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest this feature. Applicants also submit that Aalbersberg fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of amended independent claim 12 and, thus, fails to cure the deficiencies of Coden and Fleming. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Coden, Fleming, and Aalbersberg, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of amended independent claims 12 and, therefore, amended independent claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

Serial No. 09/988,251

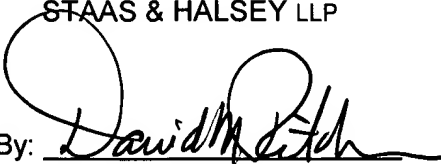
If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: August 24, 2005

By:


David M. Pitcher
Registration No. 25,908

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501